

Draft Minutes of the
San Joaquin River Management Program
Action Team Meeting
October 15, 2002

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Modesto, California

Introductions and Approval of Minutes

The San Joaquin River Management Program Action Team met at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center in Modesto, California. There were no comments on the draft minutes of the August 19, 2002 meeting. Draft minutes from the most recent meeting and pertinent documents are posted on the SJRMP website at:

<http://www.dpla.water.ca.gov/sjd/sjrmp/index.html>

Ernie Taylor announced the next San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation workshop October 18, 2002. The workshop will begin at 9:00 am and adjourn 3:00 pm. The workshop is located at the Los Banos Elks Lodge at 6th & E Streets in Los Banos. For further information and a map to the workshop visit the website <http://www.mp.usbr.gov/sccao/storage/>.

San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust

Deborah North informed the group of the impending public poll. The project is funded by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The effort is to quantify public knowledge and awareness of the San Joaquin River, identify what messages the public will respond to, and to develop a communications strategy. The results of the poll will help communicate San Joaquin River Parkway information to the public and help cooperating organizations and agencies to relay a more consistent message. The polling information will translate messages that include watershed concepts, and what the public knows and how they know it. The approach to gather this information will include four steps: the initial public poll, outreach, tracking poll, and assessment and capacity building. Part of the initial poll is to include SJRMP members and focus groups in a survey to help develop the questions and messages to include in the public poll. When the initial poll is done, they will know what types of messages communicate well with the public. The poll is going to be bilingual and focused on Fresno and Madera Counties.

The poll will be sent to the SJRMP participants in November via website, email or hard copy. Please participate in the poll when you receive it. Polling information gathered for this project will likely be used for other San Joaquin River outreach efforts. The results of the poll are scheduled to be available by April.

Riparian Habitat Joint Venture

Ann Chrisney, RHJV Coordinator, briefed the group on the Riparian Habitat Joint Venture to the group. RHJV is a statewide, cooperative endeavor to enhance, conserve and restore riparian habitat. The RHJV is currently working on a plan to save California's songbirds. Some of the groups on the management board include Ducks Unlimited, National Audubon Society, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and The Nature Conservancy. The RHJV is a part of Partners in Flight, an international bird conservation effort. The RHJV has linked riparian habitat to the health and abundance of California's songbirds.

The RHJV has released a bird conservation plan based on fourteen riparian-associated bird species selected to serve as indicators of a range of natural riparian habitat conditions. The plan can be downloaded from <http://www.prbo.org/calpif/htmldocs/riparian.html>.

Future work includes creating a database to track partners, projects, and funding. Another project is to map the riparian habitat restoration that has been done, current restoration projects, and possible ranking criteria to give advice on projects and make recommendations. SJRMP members were asked to include bird monitoring when considering a restoration monitoring plan. You may contact Chrisney at (916) 329-7458 or email schrisney@prbo.org with projects or a desire for monitoring on existing projects.

More information about the Riparian Habitat Joint Venture can be found online at <http://www.prbo.org/calpif/htmldocs/rhiv/>.

San Joaquin River Water Summit

Landis attended the San Joaquin River Water Summit meeting. There were about 140 people in attendance. The meeting included elected representatives, agencies and many local landowners. The Summit was sponsored by the Resource Management Coalition. The purpose of the RMC is to represent San Joaquin Valley stakeholders to our region's state and federal elected officials and to work directly with each other in both the discussion of issues and the formulation of uniform policy. There were several talks on how Friant is operated and how water is contracted. The RMC was formed in response to recent changes to the San Joaquin River floodplain designation. They are in the process of developing their own restoration plan funded by the USEPA. Landis provided copies of the information distributed during the Water Summit.

Other Business

CALFED needs a forum to represent the San Joaquin Valley. SJRMP's history, experience and involvement in San Joaquin River issues, make it the logical choice for this position.

In an effort to provide feedback to individuals that present projects, proposals, and information to the SJRMP, comments on meeting presentations or minutes should be sent via mail to Amanda Peisch, California Department of Water Resources, 3374 E. Shields Avenue, Room A7, Fresno, CA 93726-6913 or email apeisch@water.ca.gov. The comments will be included in the minutes and website. Input will help presenters form their projects, let them know why SJRMP supports them and how they can make the project better. Any funding agency can also view the comments on the website.

A tri-fold brochure for the Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies was passed out during the meeting. The Coke Hallowell Center is a facility of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust deeded to the community by Vulcan Materials Company. The Center offers interpretive programs and exhibits that emphasize the cultural and natural history of the San Joaquin River. Visitors can sign up for scheduled activities that meet at the Center and make reservations for canoe tours and nature walks. Reservations can be made by phoning (559) 248-8480. More information can be found on their website at www.riverparkway.org. The house is open Tuesday - Sunday from 9am – 2pm and is closed on Monday.

Mike McElhiney passed out copies of three articles regarding water quality issues in the San Joaquin Valley. The first article “Sun Setting on Water Quality Exceptions” discusses the agricultural irrigation runoff into streams and rivers. The article relates agricultural management and practices to water quality issues. The second article is titled “Rapid Test Helps Dairies Manage Wastewater”. UC scientists developed a system for dairy operators to quickly measure nitrogen in dairy wastewater; giving them an important tool in the complex and environmentally sensitive task of managing wastewater lagoons. Both articles were taken from the California Agriculture, Volume 56, Number 5. The last article was from the Ducks Unlimited Issue No. 33 titled “Deep Well Project Provides Reliable Water Supply to Habitat”. Ducks Unlimited developed the proposal, funded by the California Department of Fish and Game and the Wildlife Conservation Board, that included a deep water well to supply water to the 143-acre Wingsetter Ranch wetland and riparian habitat. The ranch is enrolled in the NRCS Floodplain Easement Program to ensure the floodplain habitat will be maintained in perpetuity.

A “Scarlet Wisteria – a Deadly Threat to Our Waterways!” informative rack card was passed out during the meeting. The color card explains the threat of Scarlet wisteria on our ecosystem, a picture, how it spreads, and how it is eradicated. The card also has contact information to report a sighting. For the San Joaquin Valley contact Kerry Eastman Stendell, Invasive Species Program Manager for the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Fresno, CA (559) 248-8480 ext. 108 or keastman@riverparkway.org.

Next Action Team Meeting: Combined Action Team and Advisory Council
December 11, 2002
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center

Modesto, California
Main Conference Room, Stanislaus Building

SJRMP ACTION TEAM MEETING Of October 15, 2002				
No.	Name	Address/ Organization	Phone	E-mail Address
1	Allison Boucher	Friends of the Tuolumne 2412 Hilo Lane Ceres, CA 95307	(209) 537-5722	dboucher@netfeed.com
2	Steve Burke	NRDC Coalition	(209) 523-1391	sburke@ainet.com
3	Ann Chrisney	RHJV 2015 J Street Sacramento, CA 95814	(916) 329-7458	achrisney@prbo.org
4	Norman Crow	Watershed Coordinator ESRCD & WSRCD	(209) 988-4570	crows5@inreach.com
5	Jim Koonz	Griffith & Masuda 517 E Olive Ave Turlock ID Turlock, CA 95380	(209) 988-4570	crows5@inreach.com
6	Paula J. Landis	DWR-SJD 3374 E. Shields Ave. Fresno, CA 93726	(559) 230-3310	plandis@water.ca.gov
7	Mike McElhiney	USDA NRCS Modesto	(209) 491-9320 ext. 102	Michael.mcelhiney@ca.usda.gov
8	Jeff McLain	USFWS 4001 N. Wilson Way Stockton, CA 95205	(209) 946-6400 ext. 304	Jeff_McLain@fws.gov
9	Orvil McKinnis	Westlands Water District	(559) 241-6242	omckinnis@westlandswater.org
10	Amanda Peisch	DWR-SJD 3374 E. Shields Ave Fresno, CA 93726	(559) 230-3307	apeisch@water.ca.gov
11	Michelle Stevens	DWR	(916) 641-6420	mstevens@dwr.ca.gov
12	Burnice Sullivan	Friant Water Users Authority 1521 L Street Sacramento, CA 95814	(916) 441-1931	bsullivan@swua.org
13	Ernie Taylor	DWR-SJD 3374 E. Shields Ave	(559) 230-3352	etaylor@water.ca.gov

		Fresno, CA 93726		
14	Sharon Weaver	SJRPACT 1550 E. Shaw Suite 114 Fresno, CA 93710	(559) 248-8480	sweaver@riverparkway.org
15	J.D. Wikert	USFWS-AFRP 4001 N. Wilson Way Stockton, CA 95205	(209) 946-6400 x 307	John_Wikert@r1.fws.gov